

request of the gentleman from Georgia?

There was no objection.

PERMISSION FOR CERTAIN COMMITTEES AND THEIR SUBCOMMITTEES TO SIT TODAY DURING 5-MINUTE RULE

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the following committees and their subcommittees be permitted to sit today while the House is meeting in the Committee of the Whole House under the 5-minute rule: The Committee on Commerce, the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight, the Committee on International Relations, the Committee on National Security, the Committee on Resources, and the Committee on Small Business.

It is my understanding that the minority has been consulted and that there is no objection to these requests.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 2127, Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1996, and that I may include extraneous material along with tables and charts.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1996

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 208 and rule XXIII, the Chair declares the House on the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 2127.

□ 1029

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 2127) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1996, and for other purposes with Mr. WALKER in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIRMAN. When the Committee of the Whole rose on Wednesday, August 2, 1995, title II had been designated.

Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. PORTER] will be recognized for 45 minutes, and the gentleman from Wisconsin [Mr. OBEY] will be recognized for 45 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. PORTER].

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. PORTER asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Chairman, the total discretionary funding for the Departments of Health and Human Services declines by \$1 billion from \$29.2 billion to \$28.2 billion, or 3.5 percent. Mandatory spending, on the other hand, increases from \$152 billion to \$170 billion.

One of the committee's top priorities is funding for biomedical research. The bill provides \$11.9 billion for the National Institutes of Health, which is an increase of \$642 million, or 5.7 percent.

The committee believes strongly we should permit scientists to determine the funding priorities at NIH rather than Members of Congress. As a result, the committee has not earmarked funds for specific diseases or directed NIH to fund particular research mechanisms. These decisions should be, and are under the bill, left to scientists.

Another high priority in the health and human services section of the bill is support of preventive health programs. Funding is maintained for the Centers for Disease Control and prevention programs supporting increases for a broad range of prevention programs and funding many others at last year's levels. Increases are provided for childhood immunization, breast and cervical cancer screening, sexually transmitted diseases, chronic and environmental disease, and infectious disease.

The committee has also adopted a strategy of preserving funding for the large block grants which permit States flexibility to provide a broad range of services or to reduce or eliminate funding for the smaller categorical programs which must be used for very specific purposes and constituencies.

For example, the bill preserves funding at the 1995 levels for the substance abuse and mental health services block grants, the preventive health services block grant, the community services block grant, and the child care and development block grant. The bill level funds the title X family planning program at \$193 million. Ryan White AIDS treatment programs are level funded, with the exception of title I assistance to cities, which is increased by \$23 million in recognition of the new cities coming on board in 1996.

Funding for health professions training is maintained at the 1995 funding level and is provided in one consolidated line item, pending reauthorization of various training programs.

The core programs addressing rural health care needs are protected. The National Health Service Corps is level funded at \$120 million, as is the Rural

Outreach Grants Program at \$26 million; \$10 million in continuation costs is provided for rural hospital transition grants.

In addition to supporting ongoing programs to address violence against women, such as the Family Violence Program, the bill provides an additional \$39.9 million for violence against women programs specifically authorized in the crime bill.

Funding for the Agency for Health Care Policy and Research declines by 21 percent, to \$125 million, and the bill abolishes the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Health, with its allocation of 14 deputy assistant secretaries and 6 special assistants at grade 15 or above, and transfers some of its core functions to the Office of the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

Funding for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program is eliminated because the original justifications for this program at the Federal level no longer exists.

The bill does make a very small reduction in Head Start funding of \$137 million, or 3.9 percent from last year, but even with this small reduction, Head Start is still funded at over \$3.3 billion for fiscal year 1996.

We reduce in the bill Federal administrative costs by cutting overall administrative budgets by 7.5 percent and congressional and public affairs offices by 10 percent. The bill changes current law by 10 percent.

The bill changes current law by providing States with the option of providing Medicaid funding for abortion in cases of rape or incest. It also prohibits use of Federal funds to discriminate against medical schools who do not include abortion training as part of their overall Ob/Gyn training, and bans human embryo research by NIH.

All of these provisions are the subject of possible amendments today.

I believe that this section of the bill reflects a thoughtful approach to the funding for the Department of Health and Human Services.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself 8 minutes.

Mr. Chairman, yesterday we talked about the implications of this bill for working Americans. Today we are moving to the portion of the bill that attacks our most vulnerable citizens.

This is really the second stage of a three-stage attack on the elderly, on disabled, and poor Americans.

Last week, this House adopted legislation which will substantially increase the rent that low-income elderly will pay to live in section 8 housing and other federally subsidized housing. In September we will be considering legislation that will radically scale back the options of senior citizens on Medicare and will substantially increase their out-of-pocket expenses, and today we are attacking vulnerable Americans on another front in this bill.

This bill kills the program that helps pay winter fuel bills and summer air-